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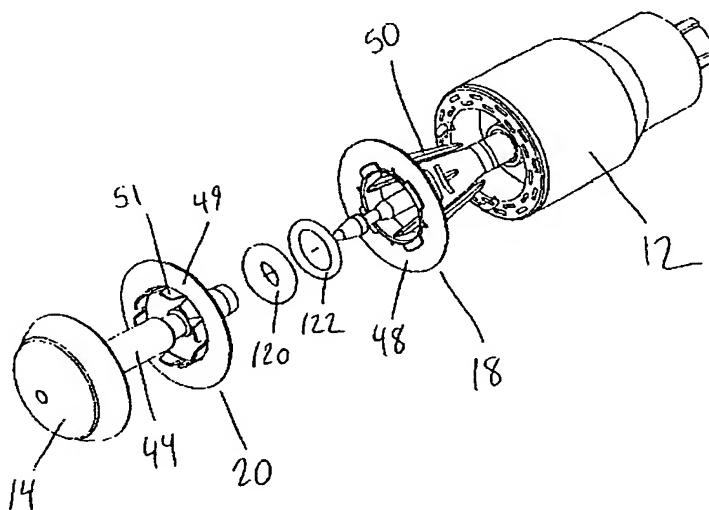
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **CIRCULAR STAPLER BUTTRESS COMBINATION**



(57) Abstract: A combination medical device comprising a circular stapler instrument (4) and one or more portions of preformed buttress material (16) adapted to be stably positioned upon the staple cartridge (12) and/or anvil (14) components of the stapler (4) prior or at the time of use. Positioned buttress material(s) (16) are delivered to a tissue site where the circular stapler (4) is actuated to connect previously severed tissue portions. An embodiment of the invention allows tissue portions to be joined without the use of sutures. The buttress material (16) is made up of two regions, one of which serves primarily to secure the buttress material (16) to the stapler (4) prior to actuation, and one of which serves primarily to form the improved seal. The former region is severed and discarded upon activation of the circular stapler (4) to form anastomoses, while the remaining material secures and seals the newly connected tissue. Methods of use and preparation of the buttress material (16) are also described.

WO 03/082126 A1

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/08596

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/08

US CL : 606/153

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/75, 151, 153, 213-215, 219, 220; 227/175.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|---------------|---|--|
| X --- Y | US 6,099,551 A (GABBAY) 08 August 2000 (08.08.2000), see entire document. | 1-3,5,6,8,12- 14,16,17,19,23- 25,27,28,30,34,37- 39,41,42,44,49- 52,54,56-58 ----- 4,7,15,18,26,29,40,43 |
| Y - | US 5,503,638 A (COOPER et al.) 02 April 1996 (02.04.1996), see col. 3, lines 34-57. | 4,15,40 |
| A, P - | US 6,468,313 B1 (CLAESON et al.) 22 October 2002 (22.10.2002), see entire document. | 1-58 |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T

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X

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST BRS

search terms: buttress, stapler, circular, pericardium, anastomosis, staple, reinforce